

the press, the bonds of habit have been loosened, and inventors not infrequently see their ideas accepted with much credit to themselves—may indeed, amass large fortunes. Custom is no longer firmly crystallized : and It Is Interesting to observe that Its disintegration began amongst the leisured classes whose habits were not hardened by the unbending routine of daily work. It is amongst the aristocracy of Europe that dress has for centuries been exhibiting Its protean changes : it has been the upper classes that have introduced tobacco, tea, and coffee to their immense importance in modern economics : It has been amongst them that the liberal Ideas have arisen which have revolutionized the tone of politics. These ideas have insisted upon the fundamental equality of man : they have spread to the masses and have had the natural result of impelling the poor to imitate the rich. Political power may be shared by all, deference must be reciprocal, and develops into mutual courtesy. However, Inexpensively, the dress of the leisured is imitated by the working classes ; and we may instructively compare the fashionable garb of a Sunday crowd on Hampstead Heath with the time-honoured costumes still worn by the peasantry of a remote Bavarian village. The Inclination towards reform—the promptings of a questioning spirit—have, we may believe, been assisted very greatly by the influence of self-consciousness, for

which Increasing scope is afforded by modern habits of mind. The more clearly we see ourselves the less mechanical we are disposed to be in our behaviour. But to affect the heart-strings. imitation must be energized by the spirit of change—stronger in some individuals and races than in others. un-nerved during countless generations by the hostility of Nature, or pent beneath the weight of